

COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS

JANUARY 6, 2026

Sanborn County Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 6, 2026, at 9:00 am, with Jeff Ebersdorfer, Steve Larson, Gary Blindauer, and Duane Peterson present. Absent was Earl Hinricher. Auditor Kami Moody was also present.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

This being the annual reorganization of the Board of County Commissioners, the county auditor called for nominations for chairman of the board. Gary Blindauer nominated Jeff Ebersdorfer. Motion by Steve Larson, seconded by Duane Peterson that nominations cease and cast a unanimous ballot. Motion carried. Jeff Ebersdorfer will be Chairman. Jeff Ebersdorfer called for nominations for vice-chairman. Duane Peterson nominated Steve Larson. Motion by Gary Blindauer, seconded by Duane Peterson, that nominations cease and cast a unanimous ballot. Motion carried. Steve Larson will be the vice-chairman.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES

Motion by Larson, seconded by Blindauer to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Blindauer, seconded by Larson to approve the minutes from December 30 as presented. Motion carried.

CITIZENS COMMENT

No public was in attendance for comment.

HIGHWAY

Sheri Kogel, Highway Department, met with the board. There is a truck with some mechanical issues; an estimate was requested before moving forward with repair.

APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Ebersdorfer made the following appointments: Mental Health Board/Drug – Alcohol Board, Earl Hinricher; District III: Jeff Ebersdorfer; 4-H Advisory Board: Steve Larson; Sanborn Co Rural Development: Jeff Ebersdorfer; County Planner: Tami Ziebart; Economic Development Board: Duane Peterson; SD Housing Authority Board: Jeff Ebersdorfer; Drainage Board: Gary Blindauer and Earl Hinricher; Planning & Zoning: Duane Peterson; Emergency Management Director: Josh Starzman. Motion by Blindauer, seconded by Larson to approve the appointments. Motion carried.

By recommendation from Planning & Zoning, motion by Peterson, seconded by Larson to appoint Myron Sonne to a 3-year term on the Planning and Zoning board. Motion carried.

Motion by Larson, seconded by Peterson to appoint Stacy Mendenhall as Highway Superintendent based on SDCL 31-11-1, of which shall be a two-year term, unless terminated. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER MEETINGS

Motion by Blindauer, seconded by Larson that the Sanborn County Commissioner's meetings be held at 9:00 a.m. on the first and third Tuesday of each month and all other meetings as deemed necessary. Informational meetings, specifically for public comment will also be held in the evenings if enough public interest is shown; And to pay bills at each meeting. Motion carried.

By agreement of the board, the annual meeting with townships will be on February 17th at 1:00 pm at the 4-H Building.

CHATTEL SALES

Motion by Blindauer, seconded by Peterson, that the following places be designated for holding chattel mortgage sales in Sanborn County for 2026: Front Door of Courthouse, City of Woonsocket; Between Block Four and Five, Original Plat, Town of Letcher; The public street on the North side of the Cortrust Bank, City of Artesian. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL DEPOSITORIES & LEGAL NEWSPAPER

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Larson to designate Cortrust Bank of Artesian, First National Bank South Dakota, Dakotaland Federal Credit Union, SD Public Funds Investment Trust (FIT), as Legal Depositories and the Sanborn Weekly Journal as the legal newspaper. Motion carried.

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Motion by Blindauer, seconded by Larson to approve expenses for County Commissioners, County Officials, and County Employees to attend all scheduled meetings pertaining to County Business for 2026; to set mileage (.70 per mile) and Meals (\$6, \$14, \$20) at State Rates. Motion carried.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Blindauer to set the commissioners' salary at \$9,000 annually, plus insurance, no mileage; to set the wage for extra part-time help for the Register of Deed, Treasurer, Auditor, Sheriff's Office and Janitor at the wage of \$17.50; to set the wages for meeting of planning & zoning and drainage at the rate of \$60, no mileage; And to pay \$50 per month for Cell Phone usage to Deputy Sheriff & Highway Superintendent. Motion carried.

COUNTY BURIAL AND EXCESS

Motion by Larson, seconded by Blindauer to establish a cost of \$3,000.00 for County burial or Cremation plus \$.75 per mile within the State; and to declare old iron, used bridge planks, old culvers, used tires and old parts as surplus with maximum value of \$1000. Motion carried.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Larson to use the state bid list for county purchases. Motion carried.

ELECTION

Motion by Larson, seconded by Blindauer set the wage of election workers at \$225 plus mileage per day and to pay \$35 plus mileage for school of instruction, if attended and \$20 per hour, plus mileage for post-election audit workers; Motion carried.

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Larson to establish four (4) or less voting precincts. Motion carried.

The precincts will be as follows:

Precinct #1: Afton, Floyd, Benedict, Oneida, Artesian City, Diana, Union, Ravenna –
Artesian Community Center

Precinct #2: Butler, Letcher, Letcher City, Logan, & Elliott –
Letcher Community Center

Precinct #4: Jackson, Twin Lake, Woonsocket Township, Silver Creek Township, Woonsocket City Ward 2 – Woonsocket Community Center

Precinct #5: Woonsocket City Wards 1 & 3, Warren Township – Woonsocket Community Center

MONTHLY SUBMISSIONS

Motion by Blindauer, seconded by Peterson that the Register of Deeds will submit the money collected in that office each month to the Treasurer by the 20th of the following month and the Sheriff by the 15th. Motion carried.

AMBULANCE ROSTER

Motion by Blindauer, seconded by Peterson to approve the Ambulance Roster on file in the Auditor's office and to set the ambulance rate at \$60 per run for responding EMT's. Motion carried.

RESTRICTED SPENDING

Motion by Peterson, seconded by Larson to request that all department heads consult with the Board of County Commissioners, with motion of approval, before making any budget purchases other than normal salaries and supply expenditures exceeding \$500.00 and \$5000.00 for the Highway Department. This is to ensure tighter control of budget spending to protect the county funds to better the county financial situation. Motion carried.

COURTHOUSE HOURS AND HOLIDAYS

Courthouse hours shall be from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for all offices. Department heads shall assume personal financial responsibility for overtime work done by their staff, unless prior authorization is approved by the County Commissioners or the Department Head. Sanborn County will observe holidays as listed in Section III - E of the County Personnel Handbook.

YEARLY REVIEW

The board reviewed the open meeting laws, SDCL 1-25-1,12,13 all of which had changes in 2025 and discussed changes.

REPORTS

Auditor and Treasurer in all accounts \$1,439,844.13

Register of Deeds \$ 3,065.00

SALARIES & WAGES

Motion by Blindauer, seconded by Larson to approve the following salaries for staff for the year 2026 to be in compliance with SDCL 6-1-10. Motion carried.

Salaries including the insurance incentive are as follows:

COMMISSIONERS:

Gary Blindauer, Commissioner	Annually	\$9,000.00
Jeff Ebersdorfer, Commissioner	Annually	\$9,000.00
Earl Hinricher, Commissioner	Annually	\$9,000.00
Steve Larson, Commissioner	Annually	\$9,000.00
Duane Peterson, Commissioner	Annually	\$9,000.00

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Tom Fridley, Sheriff	Annually	\$71,302.40
Karen Krueger, Treasurer	Annually	\$63,356.80
Kami Moody, Auditor	Annually	\$63,356.80
Lynn Brueske, Register of Deeds	Annually	\$63,356.80
Aaron Pilcher, States Attorney	Annually	\$57,428.80

DIRECTOR OF EQUALIZATION OFFICE:

Tami Ziebart, Director of Equalization	Annually	\$51,251.20
Amy Müller, Deputy Director of Equalization	Annually	\$42,328.00

OFFICE DEPUTY'S:

Abby Mathis, Deputy Auditor & Treasurer	Annually	\$44,012.80
Jodi Schrank, Deputy Register of Deeds	Annually	\$44,012.80

SHERIFF OFFICE:

Josh Starzman, Deputy Sheriff	Annually	\$55,598.40
Josh Starzman, Emergency Management	Annually	\$7,508.80
Mike Salathe, Deputy Sheriff	Annually	\$51,688.00
Naomi Terkildsen, Secretary	Annually	\$44,553.60
Shane Mentzer, Reserve Deputy	Hourly	\$17.50

WEED & PEST:

Stacy Mendenhall, Weed Supervisor	Annually	\$19,240.00
Sheri Kogel, Weed Secretary	Annually	\$19,240.00

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

Stacy Mendenhall, Highway Superintendent	Annually	\$46,092.80
Sheri Kogel, Highway Admin Assistant	Annually	\$38,438.40
Brian Pearson, Highway	Hourly	\$28.41
Heath Larson, Highway	Hourly	\$22.42
Alan Larson Jr, Highway	Hourly	\$22.42
James Gorter, Highway	Hourly	\$21.96
Richard Miller, Highway	Hourly	\$21.96
Stuart Christian, Highway	Hourly	\$21.96
Cole Johnson, Highway	Hourly	\$21.42
Logan Potrament, Highway	Hourly	\$20.60

JANITORIAL:

Jamie Miller, Janitor	Annually	\$45,676.80
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4-H EXTENSION:		
Sherry Rankin, Secretary	Hourly	\$19.55

BOARD MEMBERS:		
Planning & Zoning Board	per meeting	\$60
Drainage Board	per meeting	\$60

TAMI ZIEBART, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EQUALIZATION

By recommendation from the Planning & Zoning board, a motion by Blindauer, seconded by Larson to approve the following resolution 2026-1 presented on behalf of Woonsocket School. Motion carried.

Be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Sanborn County, South Dakota, that the plat of TRACT 1 OF WOONSOCKET INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT ADDITION TO THE CITY OF WOONSOCKET, SANBORN COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA, which has been submitted for examination pursuant to law, is hereby approved and the County Auditor is hereby authorized and directed to endorse on such plat a copy of this Resolution and certify the same.

Dated this 6th day of January, 2026.

/s/Jeff Ebersdorfer, Chairperson, Board of County Commissioners, Sanborn County, South Dakota

I, Kami Moody, do hereby certify that I am the Auditor of Sanborn County, South Dakota and that the above resolution was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of Sanborn County, South Dakota, at a regular meeting held on January 6, 2026, approving the above-named plat.

/s/Kami Moody, Auditor, Sanborn County

By recommendation from the Planning & Zoning board, a motion by Larson, seconded by Peterson to approve the following resolution 2026-2 presented on behalf of Woonsocket School. Motion carried.

Be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Sanborn County, South Dakota, that the plat of TRACT 2 OF WOONSOCKET INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT ADDITION IN THE SW 1/4 OF SECTION 21, TOWNSHIP 107 NORTH, RANGE 62 WEST OF THE 5TH PM., SANBORN COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA, which has been submitted for examination pursuant to law, is hereby approved and the County Auditor is hereby authorized and directed to endorse on such plat a copy of this Resolution and certify the same.

Dated this 6th day of January, 2026.

/s/Jeff Ebersdorfer, Chairperson, Board of County Commissioners, Sanborn County, South Dakota

I, Kami Moody, do hereby certify that I am the Auditor of Sanborn County, South Dakota and that the above resolution was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of Sanborn County, South Dakota, at a regular meeting held on January 6, 2026, approving the above-named plat.

/s/Kami Moody, Auditor, Sanborn County

OTHER BUSINESS BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD

Motion by Blindauer, seconded by Peterson to enter executive session at 10:00, for SDCL 1-25-2(3). Ebersdorfer declared end of executive session at 10:10.

States Attorney, Aaron Pilcher, was present for discussion in regard to sending a letter to legislators regarding federal funding and their lack of reimbursing funds in a timely manner.

Drainage Board matters were discussed regarding cleaning out a county drainage ditch in 21-107-62.

Approval was requested and granted for Jamie Miller for vacation time. The time request is longer than 5 days and needed approval prior to leave.

Legislative Audit required that a new fund be created to track the incoming Opioid Funds from the national settlement. Motion by Peterson, seconded by Blindauer, to transfer \$2,534.78 from General Fund to Opioid Fund. Motion carried. Prior to audits' requirements, all the funds received were put into the general fund and disbursed accordingly. This will be the same funds, just new tracking.

There being no further business before the board, motion by Peterson, seconded by Blindauer to adjourn the meeting at 11:34 am. Motion carried. The next regular scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday January 20, 2026.

Kami Moody

Jeff Ebersdorfer

Sanborn County Auditor

Chairman of the Board, Sanborn County